

JOURNAL
OF A
ROUTE TO NAGPORE,
BY THE WAY OF
CUTTAE, BURROSUMBER,
AND
THE SOUTHERN BUNJARE GHAUT,
IN THE YEAR 1790:
WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF NAGPORE,
AND A
JOURNAL FROM THAT PLACE
TO
BENARES,
BY THE
SOOHAGEE PASS.

—•—
BY DANIEL ROBINSON LECKIE, Esq.
—•—

ILLUSTRATED WITH A MAP.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following sheets are a Journal which my brother, when very young, kept, and intended only for my perusal; but as it appears that the route he took was through a part of India left blank in Major Rennell's Map, and laid down as *little known to Europeans*, it is offered to the Public in some measure to fill the chasm, until more perfect materials shall be produced towards completing that celebrated work.

14th April, 1800,

G. F. LECKIE.

JOURNAL OF A ROUTE

TO

NAGPORE,

BY THE WAY OF

CUTTAE, BURROSUMBER, DONGUR GHUR,

AND THE

SOUTHERN BUNJARE GHAUT,

In the Months of March, April, May, to the 3d of June,

1790.

JOURNAL OF A ROUTE,

&c. &c.

Sunday, March 7.

MILES.

16

DEPARTED from Calcutta at six in the evening, and arrived at Pulta Ghaut at nine o'clock.

Monday 8. Halted, and sent the baggage across the river.

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*Tuesday 9.** To Seinkole.

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Wednesday 10. To Diverhutta.

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Thursday 11. To Miapore.

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Friday 12. To Dewaungunge.

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Saturday 13. To Kerpoy.

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Sunday 14. To Midnapore.

* Any observations on the face of the country from Calcutta to Jellapore appear as superfluous as a journal from Windsor to Kew.

Monday 15. Halted.

Tuesday 16. Halted.

Wednesday 17. To Mookrimpoor. 16

Thursday 18. To a small village beyond Narraingurh. 14

Friday 19. Two miles beyond Dantoon, on the 10
banks of a tank.

Saturday 20. Passed through Jellafore; crossed the 16
Soobunreka, and encamped to the S. W of Colonel
Cockerell's detachment. My elephant unfortunately
run a piece of bamboo into his foot, and I should have
been unable to have proceeded had it not been for the
civility of Colonel Cockerell, who ordered me a camp
elephant to Balasore.

Sunday 21. The road was uneven, over fields, and 15
as we advanced into the Merhattah territory there was
less appearance of cultivation and inhabitants. We
crossed two or three nullahs, or rivulets, and passed the
Chokey, or Station of Busta, to the right: there are
only a few horsemen as a guard. We encamped at the
village of Burrampore, in company with Lieutenant

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Maxwell, Ensigns Stokoe and Spotifwoode, Mr. Forster having proceeded alone to Balasore, by the desire of Colonel Cockerell, to settle with the foudar of that place regarding the supplies for the detachment.—
Course nearly S.

10 *Monday 22.* The road was tolerably good, and the country bore a more cultivated appearance than what we saw yesterday; we passed the village of Ramchunderpoor, where there is a fort of mud; crossed the Soane at the Poolary Ghaut at low water, and arrived at Balasore at eight o'clock.

BALASORE was formerly a flourishing port, but their manufactory of the Sanaes (properly Sehn) cloths is very much fallen off, both in quality and quantity; and the ruinous state of the English and Dutch factories, with the insignificance of the Danish one, seem to show that the trade is not of that consequence which it formerly was. The government is directed by a foudar, a civil officer, having military authority, named Morah Pundit. He collects the revenue from Neelgurh, and remits it,

together with the annual tribute from the Rajah of Mohr Bunj, to Cuttae. Morah Pundit came to pay Mr. Forster a visit at the factory, mounted on an elephant, and attended by ten horse and thirty matchlockmen. He is a tall, good-looking man, and wears the habit of the Decan Moguls. Few compliments passed, and the conversation turned upon the provisions to be supplied for the detachment whilst it was passing through the Merhattah territory.

As I had heard much, and seen nothing, of Merhattah horsemen, I was particular in observing them. They ride with very short stirrups, inasmuch that their thighs are in an horizontal position with the saddle, which is made of cloths or silk, according to the ability and fancy of the rider, thickly quilted; and they have a firm seat. Their arms are sometimes matchlocks, with swords and shields, but most commonly the spear, which they use with great dexterity.

The country round about Balasore has a pleasant appearance, and my eye was very much relieved by the

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prospect of the Neelgarh hills, after having been used to the dead flat of Bengal for near four years.

Tuesday 23. Halted at Balasore.

16 *Wednesday* 24. A good road to the village of Bygonea, where we encamped.—Course S.W.

14 *Thursday* 25. Road good, partly through a jungle; passed a large tank to the right on entering the village of Surrow; proceeded to Kauns Bauns Nudde, where we encamped at the foot of a bridge thrown over it. The water of the stream was excellent.—Course S. and by W.

I could not learn by whom the bridge had been built, but it may be surmised during the reign of Aurungzebe, when the splendour of the empire caused works of this nature to be performed so remote from the capital. Whilst we were here, some bearers, who had been servants in Calcutta, brought us fruit and milk, and were very civil. Most of the bearers called Balasore bearers come from this place and its environs; so they cannot

with any degree of propriety be called Balasore bearers, as this place belongs to Cuttae.

Friday 26. Road good; passed the village of Simle 17
and Goovindpoor, to the right and left: came to a tank
of water, called Ranneka Tallow, at about six miles
from Kauns Bauns. This is the only water to be met
with till you come to Budrue. Proceeded from thence
through a plain, open country, to the village of Budrue;
to the south of which, after crossing the Soolundee
Nudde, we encamped in a delightful mangoe grove.

Mr. Motte remarks, when he passed this place in 1769,
that there was a manufactory of fine cloths: nothing
but coarse are now made.

The thieves of this place are notorious. Colonel
Peirce was robbed in the midst of his camp. We doubled
our guards and escaped.—Course nearly S.

Saturday 27. Passed, at the distance of a mile, Saut- 10
bienne Ka Tallow; crossed the Toonda Nulla, ankle
deep. Passed, at three miles, Choracooka, to the left,
and went through a stream and ferai of the same name

adjoining. Crossed the Iye Nudee, and encamped to the westward of Daumneger, on the banks of a tank of fine water. The country is woody.—Course, first part, S. E. latterly S.

12 *Sunday* 28. Road woody to the Gaimtee river, which we crossed where it was entirely dry. We then passed through the town of Jangepore, which during the Mogul government was a place of some consequence, and there are yet many remains of their buildings, particularly a mosque and mehl ferai, or women's apartments, within the walls, of which the present Merhattah officer has erected a bungalow. The following verses will point out the æra:

“May the standard of King Aurungzebe be displayed while the world exists!!! The pure Nawaub of high dignity erected a mosque in the town of Jangepore, beyond the power of language to describe, from the dome of whose roof the heavens appear low. Hear, O ye bead-tellers! if you make this place your asylum for a night.”

As the constructor of this mosque was Abow Neffur Khan, the age in which he lived will serve as its date. The builder, with the vanity of a Mussulman, is very extravagant in the praises of his mosque, though it is very ill-proportioned, having a large dome, with short pillars. We encamped, having first crossed the Bitturue and Cassoah rivers, in which there was water, in a mangoe grove on the banks of the latter.—Course S. and by W.

Monday 29. Went through the village of Burwa, 15
passed a tank to the left, crossed a bridge, with four
centre and four corner minarets, and the Bomine and
Komrea rivers; crossed the Gainkel again, passed through
the village of Arckpore, and encamped about a mile
beyond it, in a fine mangoe grove, where we had the
water of the river.—Course S. and by W. The road
from Burwa to Arckpore lies in a fine broad valley, but
the cultivation of it appears to be in a neglected state;
but when we consider the system of government of the
native princes, which pays little regard to the ability

of the cultivator, and the frequent introduction of rapacious soldiery, deserted villages and uncultivated plains become more matter for grief than surprise.

14 *Tuesday 30.* Passed the Burpah and Jeipore nuddees to the right; came to Luckunpoor ferai; passed Gopeynautpoor; road good: arrived at Pudumpoor. There is a tank of good water on the left on entering the town, and one of bad on leaving it. We encamped in a mangoe grove, a quarter of a mile beyond it.

10 *Wednesday 31.* Road good to the banks of the Mahanuddy: there was little water in it, and where we crossed, at the Anisa Ghaut, it was fordable; but the sands, which are on either side of the stream, are deep, and about three miles across. We were met on the banks of the river by a party of horsemen, who told us that the Rajah did not wish we should encamp at Nuyeenah Baugh; but we explained to them that we were not a part of the detachment, and were going to Nagpore: upon which we proceeded thither without opposition.

About two miles from Cuttae, to the west, at the foot of a Hindoo temple, the Cutjoora, separating itself from the Mahanuddy, flows to the southward of the town, while the Mahanuddy, passing under the fort of Beerbauty to the north, bends its course to the bay of Coojungh, where, together with the Cutjoora, it falls into the sea, insulating the spot in the form of a Delta (Δ). The land, from the point of separation of the waters, on one side as far as the town, and to the fort of Beerbauty on the other, is defended by a strong stone embankment, which preserves the place from inundation in the rains. It is a great work. The stone is of the country: apparently a concretion of sand; which is soft when dug out of the quarry, and acquires durability by exposure to the air. There are steps cut in the embankment, and several temples on the Cutjoora bank for the convenience of bathing, and performing the Poojeh in the rains. But the stream lies above a mile off at this season of the year.

There is a number of brick and stone buildings: Buildings.

amongst which are, the Laul Baugh, the residence of the Rajah, situated on the Cutjoora, surrounded by a high stone wall with gateways; several religious edifices, both Hindoo and Mahomedan, particularly a very handsome mosque, built by the order of Zeebul Nissau Khanum, Aurungzebe's daughter, during the government of Ek-
raum Khan. The fort of Beerbautty, to the northward of the town, is surrounded by a wet ditch, about 150 feet broad, which is supplied from the Mahanuddy by a channel covered with large stones. It is built of the stone already mentioned, and the walls do not appear thick or in good repair. There are embrasures for cannon only in the bastions, in the parapet, and curtain loopholes.

Force. From the most accurate information I could procure, I found that the whole force consists of 1000 Merhattah and 150 Seik horsemen, and 500 irregular foot, little better than rabble.

Revenue
to Go-
vernment.

The Soubahdar, as he is styled, Rajah Ram Pundit, is now at Nagpore, whither he is generally summoned

once in two or three years, to give in his accounts. His tenure is on the footing of that of a farm: he pays the Rajah of Nagpore 10 lacks of rupees out of the collections, which are estimated at 22 lacks, including what is sent from Balasore: the remainder the Soubahdar applies to his own use, the pay of the soldiers, &c. &c.—He generally returns from Nagpore well fleeced; for he is obliged to make considerable presents to retain his office; when, to make up his own private losses, and to realize the usual revenue, the blow falls with redoubled weight on the wretched inhabitants of his districts. Gowraung Roy, a Bengalee by descent, born at Cuttack, is the instrument he makes use of; and such is the utter detestation that he is held in, that a poor man will not utter his name, for they say it brings misery with it.—Piles of skulls and bones lie scattered in and near the town: a miserable spectacle! at which humanity shudders; and the streets are crowded with beggars starved almost to death. They frequently surrounded my tent, and I could not shut my ears to the cries of wretchedness.

I could not help drawing a comparison between the wretched state of these people and those under the protection of the British government ; and only wish that Mr. B. could be a spectator of what I have seen.

There is very little specie in gold and silver in circulation, and the rents are paid in cowries.. I imagine the greatest branches of the revenue are the customs, and tax upon pilgrims going to Jugurnaut.. A bullock-load of silk is taxed at six rupees ; and so on in proportion to the bulk and value of the load. Pilgrims from the Decan pay six rupees ; those from Bengal, who are generally richer, ten rupees.. They however are not severe in the exaction when they think the party really poor ; and they make up their loss occasioned by this lenity when they find out a wealthy subject in disguise, which is frequently the case.

Thursday, April 1.. At Cuttae..

Friday 2. Ditto.

Saturday 3. Ditto.

Sunday 4. Ditto.

Monday 5. Ensign Stokoe proceeded towards the southward, to fix the encamping ground of the detachment.

The Rajah's son, Sudasheveraou, paid Mr. Forster a visit. He was mounted on a small elephant, which he rode with a saddle, and was attended by the Dewaun, the Kelladaur of Beerbautty, the Paymaster of the troops, &c. horsemen and footmen. He is a young man, black and short. His dress was a short jacket of white cloth, with a piece of loose fine linen thrown over his shoulders, silk drawers, and a turban and handsome diamond bracelets. He scarcely spoke; but the Dewaun talked as much as four people. We received them under an awning, and we were all seated in the manner of the East, upon a white cloth spread upon a carpet. The ceremony of the distribution of otter and paun being over, the company broke up.

Tuesday 6. At Cuttae.

Wednesday 7. Colonel Cockerell's detachment arrived, and I went in the morning to be present at the

meeting of the Rajah's son with the Colonel, and accompanied him to Laul Baugh in the evening, to return the visit. Lieutenant Maxwell and Ensign Spottiswoode left us, and joined the detachment, having been relieved by Lieutenant James Davidson, the officer commanding the escort ordered with us to Nagpore.

Thursday 8. At Cuttae.

Friday 9. Ditto.

Saturday 10. Ditto.

Sunday 11. Ditto.

Monday 12. Ditto.

Tuesday 13. Ditto.

Wednesday 14. Ditto.

Thursday 15. Returned the Rajah's son's visit.

Friday 16. At Cuttae.

Saturday 17. Ditto.

During the time we were at Cuttae it was in general cool and pleasant; the wind from the S. E.; but stormy and rainy in the night.

encamped in a mangoe grove; situated about W. and by N. from Nugeenah Baugh.

Monday 19. I went into the village in the morning, and could perceive where the Cutjoora separates itself from the Mahanuddy, which is to the southward of the Dewul, or Hindoo temple, before mentioned.

Tuesday 20. Remarkably cool in the morning, but at twelve o'clock it became very sultry, and the thermometer rose to 100° .

Wednesday 21. Mr. Forster received at twelve o'clock at night Colonel Cockerell's long-wished-for letter, informing him that all the detachment had crossed the Chilca Lake, that the object of his residence at Cuttae was completed, and that he might proceed to Nagpore: we accordingly marched in a few hours afterwards. The first part of the road was narrow, and led through the village, with the river* to our left. Beyond that, although there is a great deal of wood, there are some open spots

By the *river* is meant the Mahanuddy.

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of ground, which are crowded with game; as hares, peacocks, &c.

The last four miles of the road were full of trees, and the elephants were in a small degree obstructed. We went under a gaut, called Raoutoragurh, and encamped at the village of Nundeilt, about a mile beyond it, having Kunderpoor in our front.—Course S. W.

12 *Thursday 22.* The first part of the road was rocky and bad. Passed the villages of Ishea, Noa, Patna, and Soobunpoor: the two first are small, and the latter is large. Crossed the river in an oblique direction, and encamped at Simlea, a small village.

15 *Friday 23.* For three miles, to the village of Cutchkie, the road was narrow, with trees on either side, and frequent openings to the river. Passed the villages of Berau and Golgong; the former about six miles distant from Cutchkie, the latter nine. The elephants were rather impeded by the branches of trees. After leaving the village of Berau the country becomes more open. The Mahanuddy is near the road, and to the right; and

there are ranges of hills on both sides of it. The valley is well cultivated. We encamped at Baidishwore, on the banks of the Nulla, which joins the Mahanuddy.—Our course was nearly S. W.

Saturday 24. The elephants went round the hill, at 16 the foot of which the village is situated: the horses and foot passengers kept on the road at the bottom, which in some places was very craggy and uneven. We passed the villages of Beerpara at three miles, Kurbara at five, Budumunt at seven, Pudmawuttie at thirteen, and Cullaub at fifteen, from Baidishwore; and encamped in a fine mangoe grove on the entrance into the village of Cuttoo, in which there are two wells: the road was very good, and near the banks of the river, and between Budumunt and Pudmawuttie partly over the sands of it. The hills on each side of the river are high, and on the north side the ranges are triple.—Course S. W.

Cutloo is an extensive market. The merchants of the Decan bring cotton and other articles; and those from Cuttae, and the northern circars, import sugar, tin, cop-

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per, falt, and filk. The trade is all fettled by a mutual barter. The walls of the houfes are built of red earth, ftrengthened by bamboos in the middle, and they are difpofed in more regular form than the houfes in Bengal, but are badly thatched. The inhabitants drink well-water, as the courfe of the river lies on the oppofite bank, and the water is fo troubled in the rains that it is unfit for ufe.

12 *Sunday 25.* Struck off to the left through a field, and entered a bamboo jungle, which was ftony and craggy. The elephants and loaded cattle kept more to the right after leaving the field, and avoided the jungle. We then proceeded about two miles over the bed of the river, and returned again to the bank, when the road became better and the hills nearer on each fide. There is a fingle hill to the right, which intervenes between the river and the road; it is high, and near it is a chokey, called Cundeapara, at about eight miles diftance from Cutloo. After paffing the village of Lungracunta, a mile further, we encamped in a fpacious mangoe grove,

near the village of Bealpara, under which the river flows.—Our course was about W.

Monday 26. The road lay through a thick forest, and the hills to the right and left were nearer than they were yesterday. The people say tigers are numerous. We encamped in a mangoe grove at the entrance into the village of Burramool. The situation of this place is very romantic: the hills on either side approximating, leave only a small space, through which the Mahanuddy flows in a winding course, and form the pass of the Burramool, which they justly style the Western gate of the country dependant on Cuttae. This village, and the adjacent country, called Dufpullah, for about fourteen coss, belongs to a Zemindar, whose strong situation has rendered him almost independent of the Merhattahs: and the present Rajah of Nagpore, Ragojee, has given up the consideration of his peshkush, or tribute, and conferred upon him the Nisbaun and Meraukib colours and arms, on condition that he will grant free egress and regress to his subjects over his side of the Burramool Pass. The Zemindar's

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vakeel came in the evening. He seemed rather to demand a complimentary present from us, than ask it: but we told him, that if he would go on with us to the next stage, at Cussungurh, and behaved himself properly, we would not let him depart unsatisfied.—He left us, and promised to send guides at twelve o'clock at night, when we intended marching.

21 *Tuesday 27.* When we arose, we sent people into the village to get guides, but they refused to come until daybreak, and appeared to be very turbulent. It was fortunately moonlight; and the baggage, preceded by a Jemadaur and twelve Sepoys, and followed by the rest as a rear-guard, went on without opposition. The road for six miles is very good, without any perceptible ascent; for two miles it is indifferent; and the remainder of the distance, to the summit, for four miles, is very rocky and bad, and for the last 500 yards very steep. There are two hills on each side of the ghaut. When I had arrived within two miles of the summit the moon set, and as I had left all the lights with the baggage I

was obliged to feel for the path with my hands : when I passed the tank, called Pudumtallai, on the top, it was dark. I understand that there is a chokey of a few pykes there, and that it is the eastern extremity of the zemindary of the Rajah of Boad, with whom the Merhattahs have entered into the same mutual contract as with the Zemindar of Duspullah. The descent from Pudumtallai to Cussungurh, near which we encamped, is gradual and easy. There is a bamboo fort : it is out of the high road. We were obliged to dig for water on the bed of a nullah. There is a tank in the village, where the elephants went to wash, but the water was bad.—Our course was irregular, but inclined to the westward.

Wednesday 28. The road was good: we crossed the beds of two nullahs, which were broad, and passed two villages, the last called Beinsghorau, at seven miles from Cussungurh, and encamped at the village of Pungurha, on the banks of the river.—Course W.N.W.

Thursday 29. The road was very good, and in ge-

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12

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neral led through a thick wood. After crossing the beds of two nullahs we passed Ramgurh, where the country is more open, and encamped in a mangoe grove about two miles beyond it, close upon the banks of the river, which is rocky and deep, and bears a beautiful appearance. At forty minutes past four o'clock A. M. there was a total eclipse of the moon.—Course W.S.W.

10 *Friday 30.* The road was excellent and the country open. We crossed the beds of two dry nullahs, which were broad, at about three miles distance. We passed by the village of Quoid, to the right, which is fortified in the country manner with clumps of bamboos: we arrived at Boad at six o'clock.--Course nearly N.W. owing to a turn which the river takes: and it will be found the direction of the road is governed by the situation of the river, as water is scarce in that country.

Saturday, May 1. Halted at Boad.

The Rajah paid us a visit; he is an old man, and of very decent deportment: he came in a palankeen, and had the Chetz, Nisshaun, and Merautib, and a number

of people attending him. He is a Rajpoot, and his family has been in possession of Boad for a long series of years. His country is a fine valley, and the inhabitants appear to be rather numerous than otherwise. Boad extends from the Burramool Gaut to the eastward, to the junction of the Tail Nudde with the Mahanuddy to the westward, and is confined on north and south by the hills on each side of the river. The village is small: there is a bamboo fort. The only remarkable objects I saw were some pagodas, dedicated to the Maha Deu; the figures carved on the outside were very light, and better executed than any thing of the sort I ever saw. It is curious to observe, that in Orissa the bramins do not officiate in the pagodas, but the gardeners. In my walk this evening I met with a bramin, an intelligent man; he told me that the Rajah Muddoo Soodur was very ill obeyed, and that he received no revenue from his country, and only a small amount in kind for the use of himself and family, which was paid from some of the villages in the immediate vicinity of Boad.

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He said it was otherwise during the government of the Rajah's brother, who died about two years ago; he was dreaded by all the petty Zemindars, and received a tribute equal to 5000 rupees per annum.

- 17 *Sunday 2.* Country open, and fine road. Passed the village of Comarhara to the right, at about four miles from Boad. Crossed the Sunklee Nuddee, a clear stream, ankle deep: there is a fort and a village near it, called Mirzadhore, situated on the hither side. From thence the road lies through a thin forest, in which I saw a great number of deer: when we had got clear of it we came on to a plain, on which Byraghur is situated; but finding no shelter we proceeded two miles farther, and encamped under the shade of some peepul and dauk trees. There is a jeel and a well of water, which are both bad; but there is a tope near the river side, which we did not see till we had encamped. The Rajah of Boad had sent a man along with us, and ordered the people at Byraghur to sell us provisions; and we received great

civility from all his people.—Our course for the first part was due W. latterly S. W.

Monday 3. The country was in general open, and 13 where there was jungle it was thin. The hills to the right and left were distant. We crossed the Baug Nudde at about four miles from Byraghur, and nine miles beyond it the Tail Nudde, at its confluence with the Mahapuddy, three quarters of a mile to the S. E. of Sohnpoor, near which we encamped in a pleasant mangoe tope.—Our course was nearly W. and by S.

The Rajah, Pirrit Singh, a boy of about ten years of age, came and paid us a visit in the evening. The management of all the business is in the hands of the Dewaun, an Orissa bramin. They complain much of the licentiousness of a Merhattah army under the command of Bundhoo Jee, the nephew of Maipuh Raou, the governor of Raypore; and the Dewaun entreated Mr. Forster to represent their situation at Nagpore, and procure redress.

The inhabitants of the countries which we have

hitherto passed through style themselves Woreas, or natives of Orissa. They are a fierce people, and possess a considerable degree of personal courage; they are commonly armed with bows and arrows, or swords: the latter are generally carried naked, and are broad at the end and narrow in the middle. They have a rooted antipathy against the Merhattahs, and frequently boast of the numbers they have slain. The latter are too strong for them in the plain, but they can make themselves very formidable to cavalry in the woods.

16 *Tuesday 4.* We struck out of the usual road to Nagpore, which is by Sumbulpoor and Saringurh, to go by the Burrosumber district, which is shorter by six stages than the former. After we had got clear of the town our road led through a jungle of low trees. When we had travelled six miles we came to a tank and a village, to the left of the road, called Baunkberja: at twelve miles another tank and a few huts. We crossed the beds of several dry nullahs, and water is in general to be found by digging for it. After going through an extent

of nineteen miles of jungle and wood, and passing two deserted villages, I arrived at Luchinpoor, and sat down in expectation that the party would come up; but after waiting two hours, a servant came and told me that Mr. Forster had encamped four miles in the rear. It was then excessively hot, and I rode up to the fort, and requested the Kellâdar to give me shelter: he gave me an out-house to remain in, brought me milk, and was very civil, but would not let me go into the fort. It is of mud. The country round about is open: there is a stream of water about half a mile to the north of the fort, and a tank of fine water near it. I remained till near five o'clock, and returned where Mr. Forster was encamped under some peepul-trees. They had been obliged to dig for water in the bed of a nullah.—Our course was W. and by N.

Wednesday 5. We passed through less jungle to-day. 12
The hills to the right scarcely discernible; those to the left near. We passed a deserted village, after having travelled about ten miles, and encamped at another

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deserted village, called Tintulgoun, situated on the banks of the Aung Nudde, opposite to which there is another village, called Dongrapalle. The channel of the Aung Nudde is about 200 yards broad. There are only pieces of standing water at this season, which are very good. The guides informed me the source is to the westward, at a great distance. The country appears to have been cultivated to the extent of some miles round this village, and it is only a few months since the inhabitants have fled into the hills, which was at the approach of Bundhoo Jee's army.

- 12 *Thursday* 6. The road lay through an open country. After advancing about four miles, we came to Hurbunga, which we found totally deserted; and a mile beyond it, we saw Moorfond in the same condition. Here the guides from Luchep fell on their knees, and said they would go on if we ordered them, but that they would return at the peril of their lives. They pointed out the road, which was straight and well beaten, and we went on alone to a village called Saulebautte, where we

found one family, and we persuaded the master of it, after much entreaty, to show us the road to the next village. He conducted us to Phafur, where we procured two men, who brought us on to Doorka. This village did not appear to have been long deserted, and I imagine the people must have left it at our approach. We instantly placed a guard of Sepoys to prevent our servants from pulling down the houses for firewood; and we sent the Bunnies, or grain people, with the guides, to a village about three miles off, called Huldee, where they got plentifully supplied with every thing, and I am persuaded, that if any English gentlemen were to travel this way again, they would not find the people apprehensive of being plundered. I recollect at Sohnpoor, amongst the number of persons collected round us, there was a bramin, who made the following observation in the course of some conversation we had with him:— Said he, “ You are natives of a region beyond sea, and have made yourselves masters of a large tract of country in India, and we are sitting round you without dread and

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in an amicable manner. When the Merhattahs, who profess the same religion with us, come into our territory, we seek for refuge amongst the hills; our herds and flocks are plundered by them, and our temples even not left unviolated."

I could not help feeling a degree of force in the bra-min's sentiments, though he might have intended what he said only as a compliment; and I was happy to find the people in general impressed with a good opinion of the justice of the British government in India.—Our course to this village was west.

N. B. There are several roads which turn off to the left, but the high road is that to the right. There is good water in a tank, and the Aung Nudde is about half a mile to the north of it.

12 *Friday 7.* The road was good: the hills to the right discernible, those to the left more distant. We crossed the bed of the Moneadur Nullah about two miles from Doorka, and the Aung Nudde at six. Two miles further went through Auglypore, where our people got

supplied with grain: passed by Babopaulle, where there were only a few huts, and encamped at a deserted village, two miles beyond it, called Tellingapaulle, to the southward of which is the Aung Nudde. The country was in general open, and appeared favourable for cultivation, and where there was jungle it was thin. We saw several herds of deer with fine branching horns.—Course to Auglypore W.; from thence S. W.

Saturday 8. Passed Sarungpore at nine miles from Tellingapaulle, and Jumlah (where the Bunnies got supplied with grain), at twelve, and encamped at Donga Ghaut, to the S. W. of which we again met with the Aung Nudde. The country is open, there are marks of cultivation in many places, and we saw some large droves of cattle.—Our course for the first ten miles was N. W. latterly S. W. 16

Sunday 9. Crossed the Aung Nudde; passed Poalgoun to the left, at about two miles, and Bobra at seven. Crossed the bed of the Komrea Nudde at ten, and encamped in a fine grove of bur, tamarind, and peepul 13

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trees, called Burkale, near which there is a jeel of water. The road was good, and lay in general through a thin jungle. The hills to the left very near.—Course W. S. W.

- 20 *Monday* 10. Crossed the Komrea Nudde. The road from thence had a wild appearance, and led through a forest over a low ghaut at the foot of the hills for near eight miles, at which distance the road leads off to the left to the hill on which the Burrosumber Rajah lives. There is no water to be met with except in one place, near two miles beyond the road which leads to Burrosumber. Mr. Forster and myself having procured guides, took one, and proceeded beyond the people; but he, mistaking the road, conducted us to a small village, inhabited by mountaineers, who fled at our appearance, but returned again in about two hours, making a most hideous noise, dancing, and beating their axes on the ground. We judged the shouting would bring more; and, as we had only a few servants with us, we thought it best to attempt a retreat without bloodshed: but we found at this crisis

that the horses were gone to water about half a mile off, and that these savages were ready to draw their bowstrings, and we were obliged to present our firelocks to restrain them. In the mean time our horses coming up, we sent the palankeens on first, and kept in the rear ourselves on horseback, as it was the only quarter from which they could attack us, and we fortunately got into the high road, after going through two or three miles of bamboo jungle, which they fired, no doubt with an intention to cut off our road. Their language was almost unintelligible to us; but it should appear from the frequent use of the word "Burgah" that they took us for Merhattahs, which it implies, and perhaps expected that we should plunder their village. We found the people encamped on the banks of the Teeree Nullah, a running stream, which flows to the right. There was a good shade.—Our course was S. W.

N. B. There is water to the right and left of the road for three miles before you come to the nullah. Travellers ought to be careful in going through this

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country: the hills are full of robbers, and they are a daring set of fellows.

We ought to have stopped at Burrofumber, to have received a visit from the Rajah. A present of some broad-cloth and a few trinkets might have disposed him to be favourable to Europeans in future, and been instrumental to keep this road always open in cases of emergency.

12 *Tuesday* 11. Our road was very good and broad, and the country more open. We left the hills, and crossed the Aung Nudde at about half a mile from the Teeree Nullah; and at a short distance beyond it we fell in with a party of Bunjaree people, who had fifteen bullocks loaded with grain, &c.: they returned with us cheerfully, and brought us to a place called Mufankoonda, where there was no village, but shade, and water in a deep hole. This place belongs to the Sumbulpoor country, which seems to intrude itself here between Ruttunpoor and Burrofumber.

The Teeree Nullah forms the western boundary of the Berea Rajah's country (the Burrofumber Rajah).

There is a village called Hurrinbaub, about four miles from the high road to the left of the Teeree Nullah, which is held sacred by the Hindoos on account of a fall of water; and the bramins who reside there have four villages allotted them by the Rajahs of Berea, Patna*, and Sarungurh.

Wednesday 12. Fine open country, with a gradual descent. Crossed a small nullah, in which there was water, and a nudde called Joong. Our road from thence for about six miles ascended, and we encamped at Soormul, inhabited by Gondes†. The water is bad.—Our course for the first part was W. and by S.; and latterly W. and W. and by N. 15

* A jungle Rajah in the vicinity of the Berea one, and dependant on him.

† Gondwauna, or the country of the Gondes, extends from about seventy miles north of the Narbudda as low down to the southward as the districts of Nagpore and Ruttunpoor. The natives are a hardy, quiet people, and good cultivators. They profess themselves Hindoos, but eat fowls, and do not abstain from flesh in general, except that of the ox, cow, or bull. When Aurungzebe reduced this part of the Decan he obliged numbers of them to become Mussulmans.

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Thursday 13. The road good. Went through some jungle; passed the village of Causebara, at two miles from Soormul, and Pauplie at four, and encamped at a place called Pundrepauney, where there is some standing water in the bed of a nullah.—Course, first part W. and by N.; latterly N. and by W.

N. B. Nurrah is laid down in the map on the high road.—There is a place bearing that name, which lies off the high road, to the left beyond Causebara; none on the road we went.

9 *Friday* 14. The road was good, and led through a thin jungle: we encamped at the foot of a rock near a village called Khullaree.—Course W. and by N. and N. and by W.

15 *Saturday* 15. For the first ten miles the road led through a thick jungle; we then entered a fine, extensive, cultivated plain, with the villages of Mahsawen and Beejpor to the right and left; beyond these we passed Karora, where there is a tank of water, and en-

camped at Balfoura, at which place we found little shade and bad water.—Course N. W.

Sunday 16. The road, as yesterday, led over a fine cultivated plain: crossed the Mahanuddy at two miles from Balfoura; the channel is about 300 yards broad: Passed the villages of Pauragoun and Aring, at three and six miles beyond it. The latter is a large and flourishing place, where there are many merchants, weavers, &c. There is a most extensive grove of mangoe-trees near it. We encamped in a fine mangoe grove on the banks of a tank near Rewa.—Course to the Mahanuddy N. W.; from thence W. 13

All the persons with whom I have had any conversation, both at this place and at Balfoura, concur in saying that the source of the Mahanuddy is about thirty gond coss, equal to 120 English miles, to the S. W. from hence, at a place called Sehawa, and that it rises in a field at the foot of a hill.

Monday 17. The road led over the plain. Passed Nowagoun at six miles from Rewa. It was dark, but I 16

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could perceive trees and a tank. There is a number of villages scattered all over the plain, but none that either affords water or shelter sufficient for a large party. We encamped to the eastward of Raypore on the banks of a tank, called Bygenaut Ka Tallow, the only good tank near the place.—Course W. and by S.; latterly W.

Tuesday 18. Halted at Raypore.

Raypore is a large town, and numbers of merchants and wealthy people reside there. There is a fort, the lower part of the walls of which is of stone, the upper of mud; it has five doors and several bastions. There is a fine-looking tank built round with masonry, but the water is bad.

Ruttunpoor is in general a very fertile, fine country, and may be styled, from its plentiful produce of rice, the Burdwan of these parts. The widow of Bembajee, Moddajee's brother, is still alive, and all ostensible respect is shown to her; but the executive part of the government is in the hands of Mayput Raou, a bramin from Nagpore. The collections of Raypore, including

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the toll upon loaded cattle, are only 70,000 rupees, and those of all Ruttunpoor not above 1,50,000. During the government of Bembajee the revenue amounted to five or six lacks of rupees; but I was unable to learn the cause of this astonishing decrease. The people were remarkably civil; for it seems the Rajah had given orders that we should be supplied with every thing we wanted.

Wednesday 19. Plain and open country. Crossed the Kharavn river eight miles from Raypore, and passed the village of Komrie a mile further; to the right of which there is a road leading to Nagpore by the Lanjee Pass, and another to the left by the Dongur Ghaut: we took the latter, and advanced about five miles, to the village of Suruckdeh. There is no shelter, but a stream of good water near.—Course W. and by S. and latterly S. W. 14

Thursday 20. Plain open country: passed several villages, and crossed a nullah, in which there was some standing water. We encamped near the fort and village of Doorg. There are several fields of paun, and 12

the adjacent country appears well cultivated. The Komaishdar, or head man of the place, came out and visited us, and was very civil.—Course W. and by S. and latterly W.

12 *Friday 21.* Plain open country. After travelling a mile and a half, we crossed the Sheo Nudde; they say it takes its rise from the southward, about fifty miles, and falls into the Mahanuddy at * * * * *. There was no stream, but pieces of standing water. It is about 250 yards broad. There is a village on the banks, called Piepurfain. The plain from thence is crowded with villages, the largest of which, called Purfool, is seven miles from Doorg. We stopped at Hurdwah.—Course S.W.

12 *Saturday 22.* After advancing a mile and a half, we passed Mohurrimpoor. We then began to approach the jungle, and passed the village of Causepaul; a little way beyond which we turned to the right, leaving Belhare on our left hand, and encamped on the banks of a tank of

very muddy, bad water, near the small village of Porinna.—Course W. and by S. and S. W.

Sunday 23. Our road led through jungle. For the first three miles we went W. and by S. and for five miles nearly S. W.; after which we turned out of the high road to the left, and encamped at the village of Cheepa, where we got provided with grain, and remained all day. We marched again in the evening, and the road led through a forest of large trees. Dongur Ghur is off the road to the right, about eight miles from Cheepa. There was formerly a fort there; but both that and the village are in ruins. We encamped on the banks of a dry nullah, two miles beyond it, in which we were obliged to dig for water. The road was remarkably good.—Course S. W.; and latterly W. 18

Dongur Ghur appears to be one of the southernmost hills of the range of which Lanjee forms a part. There is no ascent or descent of consequence, and there is a number of detached hills scattered round about. This range appears to extend from the north to the south-west,

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and forms the natural division between Nagpore and Ruttunpore, or Chehtees Ghur. The Rajah of Ruttunpoor was called the Rajah Chehtees Ghur, or the Rajah of the Thirty-six Forts, as the Rajah of Sumbulpore is styled Rajah Autaragurh, the Rajah of Eighteen Forts.

14 *Monday 24.* We found, that though the road we were upon led direct to Nagpore, yet there were no villages to be met with; we therefore, after crossing the bed of the nullah on the banks of which we had been encamped, struck off through the forest to the south-east, and got into another Bunjaree road, for there are many that bear that name, and travelled nine miles nearly south-west, to the Jhoora Nullah, in which there is a fine stream of water; near it the village of Mahldongra is situated, to the left of the road. We proceeded to Bunjaree, about eight miles further, and encamped. There is plenty of water in large holes, which appear to have been made by the torrents during the rains. Mr. Forster pitched under a paukur-tree, the branches of

which were hung round with old bells, which the Bunjaree people offer up to Caille, the goddess of destruction, when their journey has been fortunate. Out of a frolic I offered up a tin canister, and inscribed the date of our encampment upon it, and Mr. Forster sacrificed a goat. There are evident marks of cultivation having been carried on at no very distant period in the country we came through, and several spots of ground appear to have been cleared of their wood for that purpose.

Bunjaree is so very high a spot of ground, that it causes its neighbouring rivers to take very different courses from each other. To the south-west of it, about eleven miles, the Baug Nudde runs and joins the Bein Gunga, which falls into the Gunga Godaveri, which disembogues into the sea at Masulipatam. To the east the Jhora Nudde meets the Sheo Nudde before noticed, and runs into the Mahanuddy, which empties itself into the sea at the Bay of Coojungh.

Tuesday 25. The first part of the road led through a thick forest, several spots of which were however quite

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clear of wood, to the village of Doortura, when the hills, which were to the right and left, became nearer, and seemed to form a semicircle. They appear to be detached from those of Lanjee and Khyraghur. The road onwards was irregular, and winding amongst hills and woods, without either any acclivity or declivity, and admits of the passage of country carts. There are some loose stones, which would be troublesome to loaded cattle in a dark night, but we were favoured by the light of the moon. After passing a deserted small village, to the right, we encamped on the bank of the Baug Nudde. There is only some standing water; the bottom is rocky. The general inclination of our course was to the southward, but very irregular. We were in great want of grain, and the cattle and people had only half allowance.

14 *Wednesday 26.* The first part of the road led through a thinner forest than what we had passed through yesterday, with ranges of small hills to the right and left. At three miles from the Baug Nudde we crossed the

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Goredau, in which there was water, and passed a deserted village of the same name. The jungle from thence to the village of Huldee, six miles, became more thick, and the road stony, with some acclivity. We procured guides from thence, and proceeded to Cheefgurh, which is situated in a fine cultivated valley, and there is a tank of water, but it is muddy, owing to the buffaloes which wallow in it.—Our course was winding, but upon the whole we came a good deal to the southward.

Thursday 27. The road for a mile was very good, 14 when arriving at the foot of a hill we turned off to the left, and went over a narrow road on the ridge of a hill, with a precipice for a few hundred yards to the left. The surrounding trees were small and stunted in their growth, from the parching heat of the rock. As we advanced the road became better, and at seven miles from Cheefgurh there is an open spot of ground, where we saw a Bunjaree encampment; they have the water of the Gaurvey Nudde, the source of which is near. Onwards there is nothing but wood and jungle, till you

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come to Poulandre, which is an open spot furrounded by hills. We passed it to the right, and proceeded to the Gaurvey Nudde, where we had good shade, but were obliged to dig for our water.—Our course was very winding, but inclined to the westward.

10 *Friday 28.* The road led through a jungle and between hills for eight miles, when it became more open, and we encamped at Nowagoun. Near it is an extensive lake of water, which you see to the right of the road for two miles before you come to the village: it is situated in a deep hollow between the hills to the east and west, and is confined by a bank to the northward. The waters of it are distributed through the village by several small channels, and it is of great use to the cultivators on the dry plain.—Course, first part W.; latterly S. W.

12 *Saturday 29.* The road led through a thin jungle. At seven miles from Nowagoun we passed Cheefa, and at ten Chandgherri, or Saungherri: the last is the most populous place I have seen since I left Cuttae. There is a fort and a large tank; we encamped beyond it, on the

banks of the Chilbun Nudde, off the high road, in a pleasant mangoe grove.—Course nearly W.

Monday 30. Sheikh Mahomed Ally, with a party of 10 Sepoys, dressed after our fashion, and some horsemen, came out to meet us from the Rajah of Nagpore. The Sheikh is a polite old man, and has always been sent out to meet the English.—The road led through a thin jungle. At three miles from the Chilbun we passed a wretched jungle village, and four miles beyond it came to Kenary, which is large: from thence the country is more open. We encamped at Maungley, under the shade of some mangoe-trees, planted in a row on the edge of a stream of water, which flows through a channel cut to supply the surrounding fields: it comes out of a large tank, as at Nowagoun. There is a Hindoo temple on the bank of it.—Course to Kenary W.; from thence S. W.

Tuesday 31. The road lay through a thick jungle for 20 some miles. Mr. Davidson and myself were carried out of the road through the ignorance of the guides;

when we found it again we passed Kafulbarry at nine miles from Maungley, Chiely at eleven, and Adara at thirteen. The country from Kafulbarry to the Beird-gunga is open. Where we crossed there was little water, but it was sweet and clear; the channel is 300 yards broad. The country beyond it to Beltoa, where we encamped, is a plain, finely cultivated, and covered with villages. There was bad water at Beltoa, but good shade.—Course W. and by N.

14 *Wednesday, June 1.* The road for near two miles led through a thin jungle. When we crossed the Aum Nudde we found the country more open, the plain finely cultivated, and a great number of villages. We encamped in a mangoe grove near Kohy, in which there was a well of good water.—Course W.

8 *Thursday 2.* The road led over the plain, the produce of which is wheat: it was highly cultivated. There is a great number of villages all over it. We encamped at Teetur, in a mangoe grove.

10 *Friday 3.* Plain richly cultivated, and covered with

fine villages. We encamped in a mangoe grove to the east of Nagpore.

N. B. Our hours of travelling, until the 23d of May, were from two o'clock in the morning to seven, eight, or nine, according to the length of the stage: from the 23d of May we used to march half an hour before sunset, and encamp at nine or ten o'clock. We should have been unable to have gone through the countries we did, had we not had grain people and bullocks of our own.

ACCOUNT OF NAGPORE,

&c. &c.

NAGPORE, situated in $79^{\circ} 46'$ east longitude from Greenwich, and $21^{\circ} 49'$ north latitude, is the present capital of Gondwauna*, a name little known to Europeans, perhaps owing to the remote situation of it from our settlements, and the Rauj† of that name having been dismembered before we possessed any territory in India, at which time the comparatively confined state of the affairs of the Company did not lead to geographical inquiries.

* The three ancient capitals of Gondwauna were Gurry Mudlah, Gurry * * * *, and Deogur.

† The dominion of a Raujah is called a Rauj, that of a King is denominated a kingdom.

I have taken no small degree of pains to ascertain the boundaries of Gondwauna ; and though I will not pretend to say that the information I have procured is in every respect exact, yet it may serve to give a general idea of the extent of the country.

It is not amiss to observe, that the people of this place are by no means communicative, and very circumspect in giving information, particularly to Europeans, and it has cost me no small degree of trouble to collect what trifling information this account contains.

Gondwauna is bounded on the north-east by an imaginary line, drawn from the town of Belhare to the city of Ruttunpoor ; on the south-east by such another imaginary line, drawn from Ruttunpoor through the village of Soormul (situated about five coss to the north-east of Nurrah, which last is laid down in the map), to the junction of the Oordah and Beingunga rivers ; on the south-west by the Oordah river ; and on the north-east by that chain of mountains which separates it from Malwa.

When Gondwauna was partly reduced by Aulungwer,

he obliged a great number of the natives, together with the Rajah, to embrace the Mahomedan religion ; and the country remained for a series of years in this situation, the Rajah paying a sort of homage to the Moghul, as lord paramount : when, in the beginning of the present century, Ragojee Bhooahla, descended from the great Sevagi, reduced the greatest part of Gondwauna, to the south of the Nurbudda, with the province of Berar. The lenity with which he treated the Gonde Rajah deserves particular mention, as it shows a trait of humanity in the Merhattahs worthy of the highest pitch of civilization. He not only abstained from all sorts of personal violence, but allotted three lacks of rupees annually for the Gonde Rajah's maintenance, and the fort for him to live in, by no means as a confinement. Burhaun Shah, the son of the conquered Rajah, has still handsome allowances, and the fort to live in ; and the confidence which the late Moodajee placed in him was great : for what could be a greater mark of it in the East, than putting his family and women under his

charge when he went upon any warlike expedition? which he constantly did.

Ragojee was the founder of Nagpore, which he surrounded with a rampart, it being only an insignificant village appertaining to the fort prior to his capture of it. It is situated on a fine high plain, which is richly cultivated, and produces fine wheat, and bounded by hills to the north-west and south. The Nag Nudde, a rivulet running to the southward, gives name to the town. The houses are generally meanly built and covered with tiles, and the streets are narrow and filthy. The only good building is the palace, begun by the late Moodajee, and now finishing by his son, the present Rajah; it is built of a blue stone dug out of a quarry in large blocks on the western skirts of the town. The present Rajah, however, has destroyed the grand effect which would have been produced by the stone alone, by intermixing brick-work in the building. There is a very large and deep tank* near the west gate, called Jumma

* Pond.

Tallow, three sides of which are handsomely built up with masonry; and the Rajah has a foundery to the southward of the town, called Shukerderri, where he casts tolerably good brass guns. These, with some few gardens of the Rajah's, neatly laid out in walks planted with cypress-trees, and interspersed with fountains, are the only places of note at Nagpore.

It should appear that Major Rennell (Memoir, second edition, 4to. page 12) is not perfectly clear with regard to the idea he has formed of the Merhattah state, that all the chiefs owe a sort of obedience to the Paishwah, resembling that of the German Princes to the Emperor. The account I heard from the Dewaun† in the Durbar‡ was, “That there is a person whom they call the representative of the Raj, who is kept in the fort of Sattarah, and he is treated with all imaginable respect when he makes his appearance at Poonah, which is only upon particular occasions; and when at Sattarah he is supplied with every luxury, and magnificently attended. On

† Minister.

‡ Court.

the demise of this image of government the handsome son of some poor man is chosen to supply his room. The Paishwah is prime minister to the Merhattah state; the Rajah of Nagpore, &c. commander in chief of the armies; and they, as well as the rest of the chiefs, call themselves servants of the Rauj; and none acknowledges the least immediate authority of the Paishwah, but they are all bound in cases of necessity to render mutual assistance to each other, for the public good of the constitution." But the fine extensive country which the Paishwah occupies, together with the advantage of playing the Sattarah puppet, will always give him influence with the other chiefs.

The present Rajah, Rogojee Bhooshla, the grandson of the Conqueror (Ragojee the First was succeeded by his eldest son, Jannojee, who was succeeded by his brother Sabage, who was slain in battle by Moodajee, the father of the present Rajah. I have not the particulars of their histories), does not seem to be either adapted to civil or military business; he is generally dressed plainly

in white, but wears costly diamonds and pearls: his behaviour is courteous to strangers. His great penchant is for elephants and mares. He has about 200 of the former, the finest I ever beheld; and they are fed so sumptuously with sugar-cane, treacle, ghée, &c. and not unfrequently fowl pallow, that they become almost mad with lust, breaking their chains and doing great mischief, which is considered by the Merhattahs as fine sport. The principal people about the Rajah are, his brother, Munnea Bapoo, a very quiet young man; Bhowaunny Caulloo, the Dewaun, a shrewd old fellow, and his nephew, Pondrang, the commander and paymaster of the army; Siree Dhur, the Monshee; and Mahadajee Leshkery, the Rajah's confidant, who is consulted on all occasions.

The Rajah does not keep up above 10,000 horse, the pay of which, as is the custom among all native princes, is irregularly distributed. He has two battalions of Sepoys, armed and clothed like ours; and although they have been drilled by black officers, formerly belonging

either to the Nabob of Lucknow, or our service, yet they go through their exercise very badly, and I do not think they will be able to make a stand against any body of native Sepoys disciplined by European officers.

I have heard that the total collections of the Rajah's dominions, including Ruttunpore and Cuttae, only amount to seventy lacks of rupees per annum. I will not, however, pretend to affirm that this is exact, though I do not think it can much exceed that sum; for the Rajah's country, notwithstanding the great extent of it, does not contain a proportionable quantity of cultivated land to that which is waste and occupied by forests.

It is generally supposed that Nagpore is the capital of Berar. This is evidently a mistake. The inhabitants of Nagpore talk relatively of Berar as an adjoining province, as we do of Bahar to Bengal; and it has been shown that Nagpore is a city of late date. Elichpour is the capital of Berar, by the accounts I have received from the natives, who represent it as a very ancient city, and much larger than Nagpore.

A custom prevails in this town, which I cannot forbear taking notice of, because it serves to prove that long usage will give a plausibility to things seemingly the most preposterous. The bramins and best people at Nagpore have women attendants upon their families, whom they breed up from their childhood, and are called Butkies, or Slauls. They attend on their masters and mistresses during the day-time, and are permitted to go to any man they please in the night; some of them become very rich, and they are in general very handsome, fine women.

NAGPORE,

August 20, 1790.

JOURNAL OF A ROUTE

FROM

NAGPORE TO BENARES,

BY THE WAY OF

THE SOUHAGEE PASS.

1790.

JOURNAL OF A ROUTE,

&c. &c.

Monday, September 6, 1790.

MILES.

9 LEFT Nagpore, and encamped at Kampty, immediately after having crossed the Kanaan Nudde*, below its junction with the Coila Nudde. The source of the Kanaan Nudde is about 100 miles to the westward, and it falls into the Beingunga at or near the Lanjee Ghaut†. It is a fine stream of water, but not deep; it flows to the right. The road was good, and led through cultivated fields.—Course N. and by E.

15 *Tuesday 7.* The road was good, and led through fine cultivated fields of jowaur‡. We encamped at Ram-

* Small river.

† A pass, or defile.

‡ Sort of grain.

tegh, which, amongst the Hindoos, is a place held sacred : for they inform you that Ram collected his army there prior to his expedition against Rawun at Lenka, or Ceylon. The Hindoos suppose all Europeans to be descended from Rawun, and they believe Ceylon to be an immense mountain of gold, invifible to them. The place where the Hindoos offer up their sacrifices and devotions is on a hill to the right of the high road, upon which a dewul, or temple, is erected.—Course inclining half a point to the eastward of north, with very little deviation.

Wednesday 8. For the space of two miles the coun- 15½
try was open ; after which we passed through a thick forest, in which there were many trees of teek and fiffoo*, which brought us to Dongertaul ; to the right of which we encamped, near a well of good water, where we had good shade also. We crossed the beds of many rivulets in the jungle†, some of which were broad ; how-

* Both durable kinds of wood, particularly the former.

† Wood, or forest.—Hindoostanè word.

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ever, I did not inquire into their names, as they can only have water in them at a time when the torrents pour down from the hills, when they are found dry at this season of the year; and their courses must consequently even then be very short.—Course very little to the eastward of north.

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Thursday 9. Passed the village of Ghurra to the left at seven miles; crossed the Pitaur Nudde (the bed of which is broad and rocky, and contained only a little water), at a short distance beyond the village, and passed the village of Souwaufa to the left, at nine miles from Dongertaul, and arrived at Paunehdhaur, so called from five streams running together, two of which we crossed, and encamped on the banks of the second. The road led through a thick forest, with the exception of a few cultivated fields near the villages above noted, and was rocky, with a small degree of ascent.—Course N. and by E.

Whilst I was sitting at breakfast under a tree, an old man eighty years of age threw himself at my feet,

and told me that his son's wife was afflicted with a terrible disorder, which had baffled the skill of all the village doctors, and requested me to give him some medicine. I told him I was entirely unacquainted with medicine, and feared I should be able to do his daughter-in-law no good; but he persisting in his request, I consented that she should be brought: when how was I shocked to see a beautiful young woman, who was so reduced that she could not stand without aid! She had a violent pulsation in the jugular vein, and she said her menses had long been stopped. I gave her thirty mercurial pills, and desired her to take two every night; as I thought it probable that they might remove any obstructions, from which it appeared to me her distemper proceeded; and I sincerely wish from my soul that they may produce a happy effect, which I have no right to expect from my ignorance. I cannot express the gratitude of the old man and his son; they brought me comforts, and stayed with me for an hour talking, and it was with difficulty they would leave me.

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Friday 10. Passed the village of Koorie at eight miles from Paunehdhaur. The road led through a thick forest, and was rocky and bad; and beyond Koorie there is a succession of ghauts, of the same name with the village, which alternately ascend and descend; but the acclivity being less than the declivity, you get into a higher country, which brings you to Magaum, where we encamped. There is a number of cultivated fields round the village, and the country is open.

We had a great deal of rain at this place.

7 *Saturday 11.* Passed the village of Gopaulpore at three miles from Mogaum. The road led over a plain, open country, that did not appear to be well cultivated, but was covered with grafs, which seemed to be reserved for the large herds of cattle, which we saw, to feed upon. Beyond Gopaulpore, about a mile, we passed through a thick jungle, which ends before you come to Chowree, where we encamped. The country round about this village, which is populous, has a beautiful appearance, with hills to the north and east of it, at

a considerable distance, which leave a fine plain, that is well cultivated, and interspersed with some fine large trees. There was a great deal of water on the road, and my tent was double its usual weight, owing to the rain of yesterday, which occasioned the shortness of the stage.—Course N.

Sunday 12. Passed the village of Jatè at five miles; 10 crossed the Gunga at fix (which has its source seven miles to the eastward, and falls into the Bein Gunga); and passed the village of Dawulè at eight, and encamped at Narrailah, where there is a tank of good water. The road led over a plain, and was very miry, owing to the late fall of rain. There are ranges of hills to the right and left.—Course N.

Monday 13. The road led through a plain country, 12 which was, however, uncultivated, and was very rocky and stony, with an easy acclivity; and we crossed some pullahs*, the banks of which were steep. At eleven miles from Narrailah you came to Seunee Chowparah, near

* Cuts, or water-courses.

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which the country seems to be well tilled. We then went through the town of Chowparah, and crossed the Bein Gunga, in the middle of it, the stream of which was rapid, and the bottom full of rocks; it was, however, shallow: we encamped on a plain beyond the town. This place is famous for the manufacture of iron, a great quantity of which is imported into our provinces, and is chiefly inhabited by Afghans, more of whom shall be said hereafter.—Course N.

15 *Tuesday* 14. The road for the first five miles was winding amongst the hills, and over low ghauts, which were very stony, and carried us a good deal to the eastward. Onwards, for four miles, to Sajepoorè, was stony, though better than the former part. Under this village runs the Beejna, the bottom of which is rocky, and the stream rapid, at this season of the year, which is increased by many rills that pour down its rocky banks, with a noise that has an agreeable effect; its source is about ten miles to the westward, and it ultimately falls into the Bein Gunga, but at what place I

was unable to learn. We proceeded six miles further, to Lucknadow; two miles and a half of the road to which led over a barren, rocky country, and we passed over one ghaut that was rather steep. We then got into a plain, open country, that appeared to be well cultivated. Course last eight miles north, with little deviation. The country from Dongertaul to this village, an extent of seventy-one miles*, is held in jaguer† by Mahommed Umme Khan, a Pitân chief, to whose father the great Ragojee, or Ragojee the First, granted it in reward for services during his reduction of Gondwauna and the northern parts of Berar. Mahommed Umme Khan resides at Seunè, eight miles to the eastward of Chowrie, and he seems to pay little attention to the Rajah of Nagpore: for although I had a couple of the Rajah's jafousis, or hircarahs‡, with me,

* I am ignorant of the breadth of Mahommed Umme Khan's jaguer from E. to W. but do not imagine it is any where equal to twenty miles, and in most places much less.

† A grant of land is called a jaguer.

‡ Running footmen, or spies.

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with his perwanneh, directing that I should be provided with guides, yet they were obliged to get a second perwanneh from Mahommed Umme, to whom they went by the Rajah's express order. This seems to argue an internal weakness in the Merhattah state alluded to, that I had no idea of, and appears to proceed from the unwarlike disposition of the present prince; for what could a handful of Pitâns do against those columns of horse with which the Rajah might overwhelm them? The above accounts for the number of Pitâns to be met with in the countries we have passed through, who for the most part are adherents to the Jaguerdar*.

12

Wednesday 15. The road led through an open country, with little jungle, and was not so stony as yesterday, and the ascent less, but it did not appear to be cultivated, except in the immediate vicinity of three or four insignificant villages we passed. At four miles from Lucknadowa you come to a stream called the Shur Nudde, which forms the northern extremity of the territory of

* Holder of the jaguer.

the Rajah of Nagpore, and the southern boundary of that of Ballajee. We encamped at Doombah, where I found a party of Pitân horse belonging to Ballajee, which had come from Jubbilghur, to quell some disturbances among the Gondes. The Jemadaur of the party came and visited me in the evening, and was remarkably civil, and said that if the rain ceased in the morning (for it had poured all day), he would accompany me for five or six miles with some of his horsemen. Course N. and by E.

Thursday 16. The road was very bad and muddy 12 where there were no stones, leading over a plain country, which was wild and covered with grass. At four miles from Doombah we passed the village of Buckery; and five miles further we went over a ghaut, which was short but rather steep, and covered with loose round stones, which made the ascent difficult to the loaded cattle. My tent was so wet and muddy, having fallen about my ears in the night, that I was obliged to seek shelter in the village of Raichore, where I fortunately

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procured three empty houses, purposely erected for the use of travellers, by the Modè, or grain-seller of the village, who permits people to put-up in them on condition that they will buy their grain of him, which he seems to sell dearer on that account.—Course to the ghaut nearly north; after which the winding of the road carried us a great deal out of our right direction.

The Jemadaur of horse was so obliging as to send me three Sippahys* to conduct me all the way to Jubbilghur. They were Bonedallas, or natives of Bundelkund; one of them, a fine stout fellow, sung all the way with a loud voice, that you might have heard him at the distance of a mile, was mightily pleased that I entered into conversation with him, and told me that he would accompany me to Calcutta if I pleased.

11 *Friday 17.* The road was very bad, and led through the skirts of a forest for the most part of the way. We passed over many low ghauts, covered with round stones, which made the ascent and descent of them

Soldiers.

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rather difficult to the loaded cattle, and one of my bullocks fell in the road. At six miles from Raichore we passed through the village of Cheriapaunrè, which is a decent place, and clean. We got shelter in the village of Peprea, in some thatched houses belonging to the grain-sellers of the place, on the same conditions as yesterday, which it must be allowed are very easy.—Course N. and by E.; and N.E. latterly.

Saturday 18. The road led through a thick jungle, 8 with a range of hills to the right, to the banks of the Nerbudda, which we crossed opposite to Tilwaurre Ghaut, and got shelter in a most excellent tiled serai, built by order of Ballajee for the accommodation of travellers. The source and course of the Nerbudda are so well known, that it is needless to make any further observations on the subject. It is famous for being the ancient northern boundary of the countries of the Decan; and is held sacred in these parts by the Hindoos, as the Ganges is to the eastward. I was rather surprised to find the river so narrow (for an idea may be formed

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of its breadth from my having fired a pistol across it, the ball of which reached the opposite shore), expecting, from the room Major Rennell has given it in his Map, to find it much broader; however, I understand it acquires breadth as it goes to the westward, and the narrowest part was in all probability chosen for the purpose of a ferry. It is now deep, but fordable in the dry months; the bottom is rocky; and perhaps it may be navigable to very near its source in the rains. But supposing this to be really the case, what does it signify? for the wild country through which it runs, from its spring at Surgooja to the Hoshungabaud, or Hushnabaud Ghaut, the haunt of ferocious animals, seems to forbid that its stream should ever murmur under the weight of boats loaded with the wealth of merchants.—Course N. E.

- 8 *Sunday* 19. The road led through an open country: at four miles from Tilwaurre Ghaut there are large pieces of rock on the road, that have a romantic appearance; and there are several wells and a tank on the

highway, built by a Gosheyn*, whose remains are buried on one of the hills of the range to the right. Beyond this we passed through the town of Ghurra: it is an ancient place, and there is a mint, in which an inferior rupee, current through Bundelkund, called Ballashahy, is coined. A strong party of horse is always stationed here. The road was good between Ghurra and Jubbilghur, which we passed through, and encamped on the bank of a tank on the skirts of the town.—Course N. E.

Monday 20. Halted at Jubbilghur.

I got up early in the morning, and went to the top of a rock, to visit a Sidh, or a Bhyraghe, who has lived in a cave there for these three years. I found him sitting on a deer's skin spread on a sort of wooden bed; he desired me to come into his cave, and I sat down near him on a mat which I found spread there. I drew from his conversation that he was a Decan bramin (any Hindoo may become a Sidh, or a Bhyraghe, or a Gosheyn), that he had travelled over a great part of India, and was well

A religious man of the Hindoo tribe.

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acquainted with many English characters; and he ran out into a long eulogium on the virtues of Mr. Hastings, under whose auspices, he said, the Shaster had been translated into English. I had twenty or thirty servants with me, and he seemed pleased with my visit; he particularly asked me whether I had come purposely to visit him, or had fallen in with his cave in hunting. I told him what was really true, that I had come purposely to see him. His countenance seemed to brighten at hearing this; which shows that the most recluse are not free from vanity: and I think myself, that it is nothing but motives of vanity that incites these people to give up worldly affairs, that they may be revered almost like gods, for many of them are discovered to riot in licentiousness under the mask of sanctity: and it seems, when the matter is simplified, to be one mode of getting bread in this country, as a shoemaker or a taylor, but more certain than following either of those two employments. I presented him with four rupees at parting, which brought a smile on his austere brow. Gonesh

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Pundit, Ballajee's Aumil * at this place, visited me ; he was very polite: I presented him with a turban, some paper, two pencils (which they are much delighted with), otter and paun; and he said he would send his people with me to conduct me through his master's territory.

The country round Jubbilghur is a fine plain, bounded by hills, part of which is reserved for the pasturage of cattle, and the remainder well cultivated.

Tuesday 21. The road for the first two miles was 16 very good, and we passed through the village of Adhartal. Onwards we got amongst overflowed fields, which in some places were up to my saddle-flaps in water; and the road continued thus for six miles, when we crossed the Pereat Nudde, and got into higher ground, that lasted for three miles, until we had passed through the extensive village of Punaghur, beyond which the road again became bad, and led through fields. We encamped at Bhooraghur, on the edge of a large lake

* Governor, or collector of the revenues.

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of water, in a fine mangoe grove. The country we passed through was very well cultivated, and the great quantity of water on the road is owing to the breaking-up of the monsoon, which has been attended with a great deal of rain to the north of the Nerbudda. The plain was bounded to the right and left by hills.—Course N.

12 *Wednesday 22.* The road for four miles was very good, which brought us to Goofulpore, a large and clean place; beyond which we got into fields, that in some parts were under water, and we were obliged to keep on the bund, or embankment. At three miles from Goofulpore we crossed the Herrin Nudde, the source of which is in the hills to the eastward. We proceeded through fields to Sahorah, a large village, where we encamped in a fine mangoe grove. The country we passed through was a plain surrounded by hills: the rich cultivated state of the former of which exhibited a beautiful picturesque contrast with the barren rockiness of the latter.—Course N. and by E.

I forgot to take notice yesterday, that the hills to the north-west of Bhooraghur produce iron ore.

In the evening the Rajah's Aumil, a Merhattah Pundit, visited me, and was very civil.

Thursday 23. After travelling a mile the road became 12
so bad, that we were obliged to take a long sweep to the westward to avoid overflowed fields, and we did not get into our right course again for near three miles; after which the road for two miles was very good, and brought us to the Baugh Nudde, the stream of which, just above where we crossed, is confined by a wall to preserve the water in the dry seasons, for the purpose of religious ablutions, and the Poojeh, at some dewuls, or temples, on its banks; and the waters in the rains rising above the level of the height of the wall make a beautiful foaming cascade. Adjoining to the Nudde we passed through the village of Koowati, which has a large lake on the skirts of it. The remainder of the road led through a forest, with hills to the right and left, and we passed two or three small villages. We encamped at Cawriah.

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The first part of the road, as has been observed, carried us considerably to the westward; for four miles we went nearly N. and by E. and the remainder N.E. We must have gone over at least fifteen miles of ground, but I have set down the measured distance as given me by Mr. Forster, who went this road in the dry weather, and of course was not obliged to go out of his way.

12. *Friday 24.* The first part of the road led through fields, and carried us a good deal to the eastward. At six miles from Cowriah we crossed the Kutteehna Nudde, which flows from the eastward. We continued to pass through a cultivated country, with a range of hills to the right, which breaks off abruptly before you come to the Bhora Nudde, which we crossed, and immediately got into the town of Belhary, where we encamped in a mangoe grove.—Course latterly N. and by E.

Belhary is a very ancient town, and the northern extremity of Gondwauna. The old Gonde fort still re-

mains, to which the Merhattahs have made some additions and alterations.

Saturday 25. The first five miles of the road led over a ghaut, or pass, the ascent to which was easy, and covered with huge flat stones: the descent in some places was rather abrupt, and very craggy; and nearly at the foot of the ghaut, on the right-hand side, are the remains of an old fort, which appears to have been designed to guard the passage. As we advanced we sometimes passed through jungle, and sometimes through field; but the former seemed most to prevail. We encamped at Chakah.—Course over the ghaut E. and by N.; latterly N.E. 12

At this village ends the territory of Ballajee in these parts: his country extends from Calpee on the banks of the Jumna, where he himself resides, to thirty miles to the south of the Nerbudda, where it acquires a breadth of two hundred and fifty miles more to the eastward than any other part of his dominions, including the ancient Gonde forts of Gurra Mundlah and Gurna Baund-

hoo. His son, Abhau Sahib, resides at Sagur, and has the management of the southern parts of his father's country. They say he is a very debauched young man, and we may well suppose his manners must have more or less a detrimental degree of influence on the country under his charge; however, if we make the flourishing state of the villages we have seen, and the appearance of the inhabitants, a criterion for our judgment, we cannot suppose any material oppression to have existence. Ballajee stands next in rank to Ragojee, the Rajah of Nagpore, amongst the Merhattah chiefs, or princes, and is well spoken of by his subjects. He is entirely at the mercy of the Paishwah, whose agent always resides at Calpee, and is continually making exorbitant demands in the name of his master. Ballajee's Aumil at Belhary was absent in the country yesterday when I arrived, and did not return until night, when he sent a polite message, excusing himself from visiting me, and ordered four Sippahys and a Chobdar* to conduct me to this place.

* A servant for them, who carries a silver or a wooden stick.

and I must acknowledge having received uncommon attentions from all Ballajee's people.

Sunday 26. The road led through a plain country, covered with thin jungle ; and at five miles from Chakah we passed a Bonedala fort. I had the precaution to send on a horseman before ~~me to acquaint the people~~ that I should pass in the course of the night, and desired them not to be alarmed, wishing to make them suppose I was the strongest party. They talked of searching my baggage, which my horseman told them he was very sure his master would not submit to, as he was not carrying merchandise ; and all my things passed unmolested ; myself, with a Nayk and six Sepoys, bringing up the rear. I continued to march slowly along with my elephant, &c. through a country tolerably well cultivated, till I had passed through the village of Dhowrah, at twelve miles from Chakah, when the sun becoming very hot, and the wind in my back, I pushed on three miles further, to Bunjaree, where I had not arrived half an hour before I heard that my elephant had been detained

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by 300 or 400 matchlockmen, who insisted that I should return to Dhowrah; which I was advised by no means to comply with by the people of this place; and the Zemindar assuring me of protection, I remained, and sent a Nayk and four Sepoys to tell the Bonedalahs that if they did not release my elephant I should send to Chunar for an escort. They would not attend to this, and the Nayk and four Sepoys returned; two Sepoys, who had always guarded the elephant, still remaining with her: and they drove away the elephant. I wrote to Colonel Briscoe, at Chunar Ghur, to send me an escort of two companies of Sepoys. In the evening Roupee Kowaus, the Dhowrah-man, sent a horseman to entice me to return. I told him that it was customary, as well as his master's business, to have first visited me; not like a robber, to detain my elephant after I had myself passed on. I told him to go away; that I had taken my steps, and he might do as he pleased. Laul Jee, the Zemindar of this place, visited me in the evening. He came attended by a number of matchlockmen with

lighted matches, and I drew up my Nayk and fix Sepoys with their bayonets fixed, though I did not suspect any treachery. He behaved with the greatest degree of civility, and said he would bring my elephant the next day. I gave him otter and paun, and he retired into his fort, where he said I should find protection in case of necessity.

I learned that the country is torn and shaken by intestine commotions. The barber, the shoemaker, the taylor, the clown, all have guns, and there is no appearance of the cultivator. Every petty scoundrel who has a tannah, or station, on the road, makes unjust exactions upon every traveller whom he can overpower. Course N.E.

Bunjaree is a pleasant village; and though I had no tent, yet I was completely sheltered from the rays of the sun in a fine grove of mangoe and tamarind trees. The Juphaow Nudde runs through the middle of this village, and has its source in the hills to the S.W. It produces plenty of excellent fish.

Monday 27. Laul Jee, with an hundred matchlock-men, went in the evening, accompanied by a servant on whom I could depend, to endeavour to get my elephant released. I began to think Laul Jee is not better than his neighbours. I wrote a Persian letter to Rajah Dhokul Sing at Callenyer, representing the insolence of his servant's conduct, and demanding redress.

Tuesday 28. Laul is not yet returned. I understand they want to extort a thousand rupees from me. I have sent word to my servant not to agree to give a farthing in my name, and at any rate not more than an hundred rupees. They told my servant that my camp baskets were full of gold mohrs: he replied, it was false; and dared them to force the padlocks. The Dhowrah-man is more civil, sent his compliments, and wanted a dress; which I had peremptorily refused to give him.

Wednesday 29. The Dhowrah-man so worried my servant, a bramin of high spirit, from early in the morning until evening, and was so exorbitant in his de-

mands, wanting 4000 rupees, that he could not withhold himself any longer; he said, "Take twenty rupees," throwing them on the ground, "and release my master's elephant instantly, or you will repent it when you shall be bound hand and foot, and carried to Calcutta." This incensed the Dhowrah-man so much, that he made a sign to his people, and they were ready to fall on my servant, who at one leap cleared himself from the crowd, and drew his sword, daring any one of his people to attack him. They were astonished at this, and desired him again to sit down, and come to some terms. After a great deal of talk, he satisfied both Laul Jee and the Dhowrah-man with 100 rupees, and brought a written order to the Tannadars that I should not be stopped; and my elephant and baggage arrived. We shall be two days before we get out of the country under this plunderer's charge, and I am not wholly unsuspicious of treachery; however, my Sepoys are firm, and we are resolved, if we find the road stopped, to make a passage with our arms, or perish in the attempt. The just-

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ness of my cause, and the meanness of the character of Roupee Kawaus, who is by cast a barber, has armed my soul with a degree of fortitude, not to be daunted by these plundering mountaineers.

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Thursday 30. The road led through a broad valley, with little jungle; the country, as may be surmised, is in a neglected state of cultivation. We passed three or four villages, and encamped at Ajwine, which has lately been plundered, and almost totally deserted in consequence. I could not get a rupee changed.—
Course, first part E. and by N.; latterly N.E.

The plunderer of this village has sent me word, that the plunderer of another village will attack him in the course of the night. I have put two sentinels on guard, and ordered all my people to sleep on their arms, and to fire on any person who attempts to come near my encampment. No disturbance in the course of the night, except that occasioned by the noise of the village people to frighten a tiger, who killed a bullock within 600 yards of my tent.

Friday, October 1. The road led through an uncultivated country, with forest and wood in many places. At six miles from Ajwine we passed the village of Cullie, near which there is a fort, and encamped at Bhugunpore, at the foot of the pass of that name.—Course, first part, E. and by N.; latterly N.E.

The Zemindar, a bramin, visited me in the evening, and was very civil: he said, he was very sure that Rajah Dhokul Sing would be very much displeased if he knew I had been detained an instant. These people are all thieves; the Zemindar, who this minute visited me, and I thought appeared to be a decent man, has sent a message, desiring me to decamp and march instantly, as the Dhowrah-man's people are assembling to attack me in the night. This is a trick to get me into the pass while it is dark, where a dozen matchlockmen, behind trees in the wood, may obstruct my party, while the village people plunder my baggage. I have told him I am much obliged to him for his information, and shall stay here till morning, and am quite prepared for an

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an attack. We all sleep upon our arms again to-night.

The rascal of a Zemindar kept up an incessant firing all the night, and made his people halloo in the woods, with an intention to terrify me. I put two sentinels on guard, and gave them particular orders not to fire unless any body approached my camp. The event proved what I had judged, no attack.

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Saturday 2. I arose an hour before sunrise, and ordered my baggage to be loaded and driven off; and myself, with two horsemen, and the Nayk and six Sepoys, remained some time on the ground to observe the motions of the Zemindar. He sent a couple of fellows with swords in their hands, to tell me he had the guard of the pass, and would not permit me to proceed. I told them their master was a mean scoundrel, to send at that time and make any objections; and upon showing the Dhowrahman's pass, they went away. The road for five miles led through the pass; and although the ascent and descent were both easy, yet I think cannon could not be

drawn over the rocky road without great difficulty. There is a chokey, or guard of a couple of matchlock-men, on the top of the pass. We then got into a cultivated, plain country, and passed several villages, and encamped at Amirpatam; two miles before you come to which, ends the territory of Bundelkund.—Course E. and by N.

Sunday 3. The road led through a fine cultivated country, and we passed several villages: encamped at Reewah.—Course E. and by N. The Rajah sent his Dewaun immediately on my arrival, with orders to supply me with what I wanted, and to tell me he would visit me the next day. 28

Monday 4. In the morning the Rajah sent the bramin to me, who dresses his victuals, with twenty rupees; which I was informed it was customary to take, and give the bramin ten per cent. out of it: the Rajah soon after followed. He is a short, stout man, aged about fifty years; he sat with me about an hour, and asked a number of questions about England and Calcutta. I gave

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him fix yards of scarlet cloth, a piece of Kimkhauf*, a piece of muslin, and otter and paun.

Rajah Ajeet Sing is the Maha Rajah, or Great Rajah of Bundelkund, Bogilcund, and the Singars; and though the Rajah of Bundelkund is entirely independent of, and more powerful ~~than~~ Ajeet Sing, yet he must be installed in his government by the latter, who bestows the honorary insignia.

The influence of the soldiery is so great, that there is not a single Jemadaur or officer in the Rajah's service but what has a jaguer of one or two villages for his support; by which means the country is entirely divided among them, and little remains for the Rajah's own expences, except what arises from the customs of Reewah, and the revenue of the land in the immediate vicinity of it: notwithstanding which, and that the Rajah is considerably in debt, no sort of exaction or oppression is permitted to be exercised over the Reyots, and he is very much beloved by all his subjects. The Rajah's

* Gold wrought cloth.

house is in the fort, which is of stone, and very extensive, and furrounds the houses of the most wealthy and reputable inhabitants of the place. The suburbs are large. Under the fort runs the Bichea Nudde, which has its source twenty miles to the eastward, at a place called Gore, and is joined by the ~~Behar Nudde~~ from the westward, just above the town; and both fall into the Tauwuns Nudde near the Souhagee Pass. They relate at this place, that when Humaioon sought refuge with the Rannah of Oodyepoor from the arms of the usurper, Shere Shah, Choole Begum, one of his wives, who was then with child, for greater security was sent to the ancestors of Ajeet Sing, at Baundhoo, a strong fortress twenty or thirty miles to the south-west of Reewah, when almost immediately on her arrival she was taken with the pains of labour; but the astrologers insisted that the delivery should be deferred for two hours, when a great king would be produced. The poor Begum was hung up by the legs for the appointed time, after

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which she was let down, and the mighty Acbar* was born. In remembrance of the above anecdote, when Ajeet Sing received Shah Aalum after his flight from Shujah Ud Dowleh, and made an offering of the town of Mercundpoor to the king, and one of his wives was delivered of a son, he was called Acbar Shah. He is still in existence at Delhi, and the taxes of the above town, amounting to 800 rupees per annum, are regularly remitted to him.

Tuesday 5. I returned the Rajah's visit. He ordered the great gate of the fort to be thrown open, which at other times is always shut, and received me with a great deal of cordiality. I saw his son, a fine handsome young man, aged about twenty-five. I had it hinted to me that he was so much in debt, that he was scarcely able to stir for the importunities of his creditors. The Rajah gave me a piece of silk, a piece of muslin, and a turban, otter and paun. In the evening I sent the

* The third prince of the dynasty of Tamerlane, that sat on the throne of Hindoostan.

Rajah's son a turban wrought with gold, and a small looking-glass set in agate, and ornamented with stones. The Dewaun soon after came to me with three letters, addressed to the Zemindars on the road, ordering them not to obstruct my way; and the Rajah sent two Hircarrahs to conduct me to the foot of the Souhagee Pass.

Wednesday 6. The road led through a fine cultivated country, with many fine tanks, and at twelve miles from Reewah we passed through Raypore, a large place. We crossed several rivulets, which were too insignificant to trace, and we encamped at Mungaouma, on the banks of the Singre Nudde, the source of which is sixteen miles off, in the hills to the S. E. and it falls into the Tauwuns river after taking a north-westerly direction.— Course very little to the N. of E. 23

The usual road to Mirzapoor from hence is through the country of the Singrahs; but Ajeet Sing advised me to go by the Souhagee Pass, as they are a turbulent people, and my guard is not strong.

Thursday 7. The road led through a country re- 12

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markably well cultivated, and the harvest ready for the sickle. It may become a question, and subject matter for surprise, that Ajeet Sing should be so poor, when his country is so well cultivated: but the case is this, that all his soldiers have assignments of lands for their support, as ~~we have~~ before observed, and are themselves remarkably attentive to agriculture, as they receive no pay; and you will see Rajpoots and bramins working in their own fields. We encamped at Ghur, in a mangoe tope, near a tank* of fine water.—Course N.E.

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Friday 8. Eight miles of the road led through fields, and it was with difficulty we found our road; when we arrived at the Souhagee Ghaut, the ascent to which is very easy, but stony, and continues for eight miles; the descent is remarkably abrupt and rugged for the space of near a mile, at it was with the utmost difficulty my elephant got down. At the foot of the ghaut, to the right, is a stone well, but the water is bad. We encamped at a village half a mile further, bearing the

* A pond.

same name with the ghaut.—Course to the summit of the ghaut N.E.; descent E. My people returned from Hullea, where they found Dhokul Sing: he sent a very polite letter, expressing his displeasure that my elephant had been detained, and a perwaneh* to the Khowaus to release it immediately. I shall write to him more fully when I arrive at Benares; and request that the 100 rupees may be taken away from the Khowaus, and distributed amongst the poor of the village of Dhowrah.

Saturday 9. The road for seven miles led through fields, and brought us to the junction of the Balun Nudde with the Tauwuns, or Tonse. We crossed the former, which comes from the hills to the south-east; the latter has its source a great way off, to the south-west, and falls into the Ganges below Allahabad. The Tauwuns Nudde terminates Bogilcund, the territory of Ajeet Sing.—Course to the Balun Nudde N.E. The road onwards to the village of Khere led through a fine cultivated country.—Course E. The Foujdar, on

* Written order.

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the part of Laul Oodwunt Singh, the Nowaub's Zemindar of the district of Maurra, visited me in the evening, and brought two people to conduct me to Maurra.

15 *Sunday* 10. The road led through fields, and we found it with the greatest difficulty. The country was remarkably well cultivated, and we passed several villages.—Our course was very irregular; but from the range of hills to the right, which run nearly east and west, I imagine the village of Diaia, where we encamped, to bear about E. and by N. from Khare.

16 *Monday* 11. The road led through a fine cultivated country, and we passed many villages; encamped near Maurra. I there learned that Rajah Ram Ghollam Singh had passed the Ghauts, with 900 matchlockmen and 200 horse, by the desire of Mr. Duncan, to my relief. Two or three hours after I arrived at this place, Laul Oodwunt Singh, the Zemindar, sent a profusion of eatables for the entertainment of myself and people, and twenty or thirty rupees, which I distributed amongst his people who brought the things. He soon after

visited me himself, and I presented him with an Aurungabad turban and cumurbund worked with gold. In the evening I received a letter from Mr. Duncan, giving me an account of the plan he had laid down for my relief, which at once displays his accurate judgment, as well as humanity, in the promptness of his exertions; which I shall ever remember with gratitude.

Tuesday 12. Rajah Ram Ghollam Singh (who had repassed the Ghauts on hearing that I had gone by the Souhagee Pass) visited me in the morning, and requested that I would stay a day with him at Beejapour, which I promised to do. On parting I presented him with a Guzarat and an Arungabad cumurbund. Laul Oodwunt Singh was very desirous that I should visit him, which I wished to avoid, as I knew it would be putting him to a needless expence; but he sent so frequently that I could not avoid it. He met me at the door, and conducted me into a small upper room, and was very polite. On parting, he wanted to give me a large parcel of cloths and shawls, a horse, and a bag of

money. I told him it was not customary for English people to take such things, and begged he would excuse me. He said he was not a Zemindar of the Company, but of the Nowaub, and insisted that I should take some part of the things, and I accepted a pair of shawls and a piece of kinkhaub. In the evening I set off for Beejapour, and encamped there. The Rajah met me on horseback half a mile from the town, and I could not persuade him to leave me until my tent was pitched, and I had lain down.

Wednesday 13. I had a violent fever on me all the night, and the Rajah came to see me in the morning. I had heard that he had made such long stages for my relief, that his horse dropped on his arrival at Beejapour, and I offered him the best horse I had, with furniture, but I could not persuade him to accept it. At eleven o'clock A. M. relieved from the fever by a profuse perspiration. The Rajah sent a number of eatables for my entertainment.

In the evening the Rajah came to conduct me to his

house, and was remarkably polite and attentive. On parting he wanted to give me shawls, &c. and a horse; I requested he would excuse me, but he insisted that I should accept of something, and I took a piece of kimkhaub, and went home. The Rajah accompanied me, and brought the horse along with him, which he insisted on my accepting;—I told him I would accept it on no other terms, than that he would take a Decan horse I had, in return, and a Hindoostany sword, which he at last agreed to: and the Rajah's horse is superior to mine, though I gave 800 rupees for him.

Thursday 14. The Rajah came in the morning, and insisted on accompanying me to Mirzapore, and he rode all the way with me. On parting I gave him a fir-peach* fet with jewels, which had been presented to me by the Rajah of Nagpore, on my leaving that place.

Friday 15. To Benares, by Dauk, or post.

* An ornament for the head.

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